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The Moves of the Missouri State Library

In the 19th century Missouri had a library called the State Library. However, it wasn't a state library that we know today. It is what we now call the Supreme Court Library, and it's responsibilities were to provide legal references to the Court system and to the General Assembly. In 1907 the Missouri legislator created the Missouri Library Commission. Prior to this there was what was called the State Library, but in fact it is what we now call the Missouri Supreme Court Library. The **new** State Library was first housed in the Capital Annex, what had previously been called the Supreme Court building located on the Southeast corner of the Capitol grounds (what is now the corner of East Capital and Jefferson St.).

When the Capitol burned in 1911, the State Library was pushed out of it's quarters, and moved to the basement of the Jefferson City Public Library. Due to lack of space this was a very temporary move, and shortly the library moved to the Hess building on the corner of High St. and Washington St. In 1913 the capitol was finished enough that the library could return to the Capitol Annex. However, one month later the library was moved to a house owned by the state at 202 Washington St.

In 1917 the state library was moved into the Capitol on the ground floor. In 1929 the stacks stayed on the ground floor, but all the offices moved to the fourth floor.

In 1938 the library finally seem to have found a home. It moved into the new state office building, now called the Broadway building. The library stayed in this building for 29 years, until 1967. At that time the library was moved into the Dawson Building at 304 East High St. It was to remain there for 18 years until 1984 when it was moved into the Truman Building.

The Wolfner Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped was administratively assigned to the State Library in 1977, but didn't physically move from St. Louis until 1985.

In 1987 the expanded State Library was moved into a leased building at 2002 Missouri Blvd. This was intended to be a temporary move

until a new building, the Missouri State Information Center, containing the State Library, State Archives, State Records, and the Secretary of States Office, was finished.

In 1991 the Missouri State Information Center was completed, and while the space assigned to the state library is smaller in volume, the roof doesn't leak, the dock area doesn't be flooded during each rainstorm, and the air conditioning vents work. The State Library moved once again in the spring of 1991.